

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05524 090820Z

44

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 SPM-01 SP-03 EB-05 IGA-02 /048 W

----- 050927

R 081521Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9314

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 5524

AID/W FOR PNA, POP, AFR

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: SPOP, IV

SUBJ: "CHILD IN IVORY COAST" STUDY

REFS: A) ABIDJAN 5331; B) ABIDJAN 4916; C) ABIDJAN 4697;

D) ABIDJAN 4458; E) ACCRA 3277; F) ACCRA 3073

1. ON JULY 3, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH REGARDING THE SUBJECT STUDY. THE RESPONSE INDICATES THAT ONLY 22 PERCENT OF TOTAL 33,000 DOLLARS GRANT HAS BEEN SPENT AS OF THE END OF JUNE AND MAKES NO MENTION OF COMMENTS OF DRS. KANGA AND N'DA WHO ADMITTED DURING INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF THAT THEY AND OTHERS IN SIEPRO HAD BEEN VERY SLOW IN INITIATING WORK ON THE PROJECT. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO AVOID ADMITTING PROCRASTINATION AND, HENCE, HAS RESPONDED EVASIVELY AND SLOWLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR DETAILS. (THE EXPENDITURE REPORT IS BEING POUCHED TO PNA/POP/AFR)

2. DESPITE THIS LACK OF DILIGENCE ON THE PART OF IVORIANS, I BELIEVE THAT DE-OBLIGATION OF THE GRANT WOULD BE INADVISABLE AT THIS TIME FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

(A) I HAVE RECENTLY INITIATED CONVERSATIONS WITH MINPLAN DIAWARA REGARDING POPULATION PLANNING (REFTELS A AND D). IN THS PAST SUCH DISCUSSIONS HAVE MET WITH LITTLE OR NO INTEREST ON THE PART OF GOIC OFFICIALS WHO CITE SMALL POPULATION OF IVORY COAST, RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO SUCH ACTIVITIES, ETC. AS REASONS FOR NOT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 05524 090820Z

PURSUIING ACTIVE POPULATION POLICY. HOWEVER, GIVEN IMPACT OF THE

WORLD FOOD AND ENERGY CRISIS, DROUGHT IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND INCREASE IN IVORIAN POPULATION, MINPLAN IS CONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO DEVELOP A POPULATION PROGRAM FOR IVORY COAST. AS A MINPLAN OFFICIAL RECENTLY POINTED OUT TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER: "OUR POPULATION POLICY IS NOT YET DEFINED; WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE ELEMENTS TO DEFINE IT." THIS REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS OVER THE "SEE NO, HEAR NO, SPEAK NO" POSTURE HERETOFORE EVIDENT. (B) OTHER POPULATION PLANNING STUDIES (INCLUDING THE CENSUS) HAVE BEEN DELAYED AS THE GOIC FOCUSSED ON WHAT IT CONSIDERED MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS--E.G., LOSS OF DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES DUE TO THE FALL IN WORLD COMMODITY PRICES; THE ENERGY CRISIS. NOW THAT COMMODITY PRICES HAVE STRENGTHENED AND THE INITIAL IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS ON THE IVORIAN ECONOMY DIGESTED, ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE POPULATION QUESTION WITH MORE SERIOUSNESS THAN EVER BEFORE SINCE POPULATION PRESSURES HAVE DEVELOPED (PARTICULARLY IN THE URBAN AREAS) AS A RESULT OF THE HIGH BIRTH RATE (3.0 PERCENT) AND IMMIGRATION PROMPTED BY THE DROUGHT (BRINGING THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE TO ABOUT 4.0 PERCENT).

(C) THE EMBASSY RECENTLY CONCURRED (REFTEL B) IN A PROPOSAL FOR A PATHFINDER FUND PROJECT AND HAS INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH GOIC OFFICIALS RELATIVE TO THIS PROJECT. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE POPULATION PLANNING IN IVORY COAST BY "GIVING ON THE ONE HAND WHILE TAKING AWAY WITH THE OTHER. "

(D) FINALLY, THE STUDY IS A KEY LINK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IVORIAN POPULATION PROGRAM AND ALSO TIES IN WELL WITH THE CENSUS PROJECT WHICH IS SLATED TO COMMENCE IN JANUARY 1975. I EXPECT SHORTLY TO RECEIVE FROM MINISTER DIAWARA ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE TO THE PRESENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF A POPULATION PROGRAM.

3. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, I BELIEVE IT IS BOTH NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE THE FINANCING FOR THE SUBJECT STUDY. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SIEPRO OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT SINCE WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY PROGRESS WILL BE MUCH FASTER THAN PREVIOUSLY. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR COMPLETION. IN THE FUTURE, I BELIEVE OUR "NUDGING" WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE NOW THAT MINPLAN AND MINHEALTH ARE DEMONSTRATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 05524 090820Z

INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR AN ACTIVE POPULATION POLICY.

4. ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTTEL E WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTTEL.
SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA05524
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-1189
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740770/aaaachsr.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) ABIDJAN 5331; B) ABIDJAN 4916; C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "CHILD IN IVORY COAST" STUDY
TAGS: SPOP, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005